

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
2430 E Street, NW
Washington 25, D.C.

24 January 1949

[redacted]
Chief, London Bureau
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

[redacted]
London W. 1., England

Dear [redacted]

With reference to your memorandum of 4 January 1949 concerning the cashing of checks by FBIS personnel with the cashier at the BBC Monitoring Service, I regret very much that it is impossible for us to indemnify the BBC.

The service is obviously a very great convenience to London Bureau employees and I should like very much to see it continued if it is at all possible to do so. BBC is, of course, under no obligation to provide such a service and it therefore behooves all Bureau employees to carefully avoid abusing the privilege lest it be withdrawn. Salary checks are, of course, backed up by the U.S. Government and I believe there is no possible risk in cashing them. However, it is administratively and legally impossible for this agency or the U.S. Government to indemnify BBC against possible loss in cashing personal checks of employees.

I believe, however, that this could be worked out locally. I would suggest that you meet with the employees, explain the situation, and agree as a group to indemnify BBC on a pro rata or other suitable basis. I think it would certainly be wise to place a limit on both the amount and number of checks which one employee might cash within a given period. I believe that such an arrangement could be made locally and that it would be satisfactory to Frost.

You may rest assured that I will use all the power with which I am vested to insure that reimbursement is made promptly if any employee should default on a check. However, as I stated before, it is impossible for me to officially indemnify the BBC in this matter.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of my letter to Frost on this subject.

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Enclosure

LKW:hmc